

Claims

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method of verifying proper coupling of  
an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an  
operator who is located in a cab of a work machine,  
with (i) the work machine including the implement  
assembly and the lift arm assembly, (ii) the implement  
assembly including a hinge plate, (iii) the hinge plate  
10 having a first coupling aperture extending  
therethrough, (iv) the lift arm assembly having a lift  
arm and a cylinder, and (v) the cylinder being secured  
to the lift arm, comprising the steps of:

15 actuating the cylinder so as to move a pin  
from a first pin position to a second pin position,  
wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first  
coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first  
pin position, and (ii) the pin extends through the  
first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the  
20 second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in  
the second pin position by the operator from a position  
within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement  
assembly to the lift arm assembly is verified by the  
25 operator without having to exit the cab.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the hinge plate further has a hook portion,  
the lift arm has a support bar, and  
30 the hook portion hookingly engages the  
support bar.

5                   the pin further extends through the second  
coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second  
pin position.

10 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the  
actuating step includes the step of:  
advancing a hydraulic fluid into the cylinder  
so as to move the pin from the first pin position to  
the second pin position.

15                    5. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
                      the work machine includes a seat positioned  
                      within the cab, and  
                      the viewing step occurs while the operator is  
                      seated upon the seat.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the viewing step includes the step of viewing  
an end portion of the pin when the pin is located in  
the second pin position by the operator from the  
position within the cab, and

the end portion of the pin is advanced through the first coupling aperture when the pin is moved from the first pin position to the second pin position.

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7. A method of verifying proper coupling of  
an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an  
operator who is located in a cab of a work machine,  
with (i) the work machine including the implement  
5 assembly and the lift arm assembly, and (ii) the  
implement assembly having a first coupling aperture,  
comprising the steps of:

actuating a cylinder so as to move a pin from  
a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein  
10 (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling  
aperture when the pin is located in the first pin  
position, and (ii) the pin is positioned within the  
first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the  
second pin position; and

15 viewing the pin when the pin is located in  
the second pin position by the operator from a position  
within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement  
assembly to the lift arm assembly is verified by the  
operator without having to exit the cab.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein:

the implement assembly includes a hinge plate  
having the first coupling aperture defined therein.

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9. The method of claim 7, wherein:

the lift arm assembly includes a lift arm,

and

the cylinder is secured to the lift arm.

30

10. The method of claim 8, wherein:

the hinge plate further has a hook portion,

the lift arm has a support bar, and

the hook portion hookingly engages the

support bar.

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11. The method of claim 9, wherein:  
the implement assembly further has a support  
plate,

5 aperture defined therethrough, and

10                    12. The method of claim 7  
actuating step includes the step of:

13. The method of claim 7, wherein:  
the work machine includes a seat positioned  
within the cab, and  
the viewing step occurs while the operator is  
20 seated upon the seat.

the viewing step includes the step of viewing  
an end portion of the pin when the pin is located in  
25 the second pin position by the operator from the  
position within the cab, and

the end portion of the pin is advanced through the first coupling aperture when the pin is moved from the first pin position to the second pin position.

a lift arm assembly having a lift arm and a cylinder secured thereto, wherein (i) said cylinder is operable to move a pin between a first pin position and a second pin position, (ii) said pin is spaced apart from said coupling aperture when said pin is located in said first pin position, (iii) said pin extends through said coupling aperture when said pin is located in said second pin position, (iv) said pin is positioned within a field of vision of said operator when (A) said pin is located in said second pin position, and (B) said operator is located within said cab.

16. The work machine of claim 15, wherein:  
20       said cab has a seat located therein on which  
      said operator may be seated,

said pin is positioned within said field of vision of said operator when (A) said pin is located in said second pin position, and (B) said operator is seated upon said seat.

17. The work machine of claim 15, wherein:  
said hinge plate further has a hook portion,  
said lift arm has a support bar, and  
30 said hook portion hookingly engages said  
support bar.

5           said pin further extends through said second  
coupling aperture when said pin is located in said  
second pin position.

19. The work machine of claim 1, wherein the said pin is movable between the first position and the second pin position by means of a hydraulic fluid within the work machine.

20                said end portion of said pin is positioned  
within said field of vision of said operator when (A)  
said pin is located in said second pin position, and  
(B) said operator is located within said cab.

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